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REMARKS

Amendment after Notice of Allowance has been filed under 37 CFR 1.312.

Notice of Allowance has been filed on 12/28/2005. In paragraph 1 of Notice of Allowability, the examiner requested that claims 2 and 4 be canceled as they are directed to non-elected invention. The applicants respectfully request reconsideration and rejoining claims 2 and 4 into the application.

The examiner filed Office Action on 06/02/2005 to restrict the application to one of the two species. In paragraph 1 of the Action, the examiner stated that claim 1 is generic. Accordingly, when generic claim 1 is allowed, all linking claims should be allowed.

Original claim 1 is shown as follows:

1. An electrical connector assembly in which a first connector is plugged with a second connector for electrical connection, said first connector comprising:

    a plurality of first contact portions arranged in a direction perpendicular to a plugging direction of said first and second connectors; and

    a pair of guide portions provided at sides of said first connector outside a range, in which said first contact portions are arranged, each guide portion having a guide surface extending in a plane perpendicular to said direction, and said second connector comprising:

    a plurality of second contact portions arranged in said direction and connected to said first contact portions; and

    a pair of guided portions each having a guided surface

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guided by said guide surface in said guided direction when said second connector is plugged into said first connector, wherein at least one of said guide and guided surfaces has a relief recess at least in a middle thereof in said plugging direction.

In response to the Office Action of 09/12/2005, the applicant filed amendment to cancel claim 1 and file new claim 5. The applicants had filed new claim 5 because amending claim 1 may cause some confusion in terms of description. Especially, it seemed difficult to clearly describe the limitations, namely the guide portions and the guided portions. It is submitted that claim 1 and claim 5 are basically the same as explained below.

New claim 5 is shown as follows:

5. An electrical connector assembly, comprising:  
a first connector extending in a first direction and having a pair of guide portions at both ends thereof in the first direction, each of the guide portions having a first inside surface at an inside thereof in the first direction and a first outside surface at an outside thereof in the first direction, said first inside surface having a flat surface, said first outside surface having a relief recess; and

a second connector to be connected to the first connector and extending in a second direction, said second connector having a pair of guided portions at both ends thereof in the second direction for receiving the pair of the guide portions, each of the guided portions having a second inside surface at an inside thereof in the second direction and a second outside surface at an outside thereof

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in the second direction, said second inside surface having a relief recess, said second outside surface having a flat surface.

Through the comparison between original claim 1 and new claim 5, it is submitted that new claim 5 has a broader scope as compared with original claim 1. Original claim 1 includes the following limitations:

1. a first connector
  - 1a. a plurality of first contact portions
  - 1b. a pair of guide portions
2. a second connector
  - 2a. a plurality of second contact portions
  - 2b. a pair of guided portions

New claim 5 has the following limitations:

1. a first connector
  - 1a. a pair of guide portions
2. a second connector
  - 2a. a pair of guided portions

As apparent from the above comparison between original claim 1 and new claim 5, both claims have the same limitations except the first and second contact portions, which are the limitations in claim 1. Therefore, claim 5 has a broader scope as opposed to claim 1, which was acknowledged as generic claim at the time of restriction requirement. Therefore, it is obvious that claims 2 and 4 are within the scope of new claim 5.

As explained above, new claim 5 has a broader scope as opposed to original claim 1, and claim 5 has been allowed. Claims

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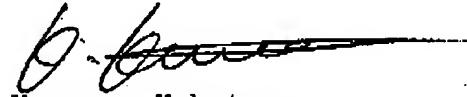
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2 and 4 to be rejoined are dependent from claims 5 and 2, respectively. Accordingly, no additional search or examination is necessary.

In the amendment, claims 2, 3, 4, and 8 have also been amended to correct clerical errors and dependency. There is no change in the scope of the invention.

Reconsideration and rejoining claims 2 and 4 are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office, Fax No. (571) 273-8300 on January 5, 2005.

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